

The repeated movements of the inferior region of the proboscis quickly produce such a pressure in the anterior part that it is soon projected. Compressed at the same moment by the muscles of the canal just mentioned, the bulb becomes terminal; and we notice the jerking-movements of the style at the same time that a granular liquid flows through an aperture situated near its point.

The movements which act in the projection of the proboscis serve equally to accumulate the liquid of the glandular region at the entrance of the poison-sac. The muscles which surround this sac contract in such a way that the anterior region seems to approach the posterior region. The same mechanism is produced in the bulb. It is this combination of movements that causes the issue of the point of the style at the same time as the flow of poison. As soon as the poison-sac has allowed a certain quantity of liquid to escape, this is immediately replaced by that contained in the glandular region.

The return of the proboscis is effected by the inverse contraction of the muscles of the canal and protractile region. These observations justify us in regarding the muscular region as the principal motor of the proboscis.—*Comptes Rendus*, April 14, 1873, tome lxxvi. pp. 966–969.

*French Measures.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

French measure is being used by several scientific writers, being chiefly introduced by translators of French elementary books, who are too idle to reduce the French to the relative English measures; for there can be no doubt of the greater convenience of the English foot, inch, and line, being adapted to the different sizes of the things wished to be measured. Few people but can tell you what is a foot and what is an inch, and give a close approximation to the size in feet and inches of any thing you show to them; but I have never found a person using a French measure who could tell you the size of 190 millimetres, though he could tell what was the length of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches, which is within a very little of the same thing.

It may be of some advantage to give such persons an idea of a size mentioned to be informed that a decimetre, or 100 millimetres, is about the usual length of a man's fore finger, from the tip of the nail to the back of the knuckle when the finger is bent down, and that the first joint of the finger when bent down is as nearly as possible 25 millimetres, or a fourth part.

I challenged a well-known physiologist who has long used French measure to give me his idea of the measure of certain things lying before him; and he declined to guess, and was surprised at the accuracy with which I could guess them by this simple means. The decimetre is as nearly as possible 4 inches, which is the usual length of the fore finger; and the first joint, as nearly as possible a quarter the length of the fore finger, an inch or 25 millimetres long.